

Chere begyneth the parlyament of
fowles compyled by the noble retho-
rycyn Geffray chaucer.

¶ Johanes Rastell in laudem magistri gal-
fridi chaucer.



Ho so wolde consider the great diligencē
w The bysyp exercisise and labozous studi
¶ Of geffrey chaucer in his epistencē
That famous poete of late memory
With his faire eloquence and elygancē
Shall see our tonge enlumyned so with his spech
That to the ere it is an heuynly lech

His hye sentence so brefe and quyke
Hys pregaunt resonis of pfyte sustenaunce
His sugred terins ar no thing to seke
His collours gay of moste pfyte plesaunce
So clere is depuryd his langage in substaunce
¶ Of euery difference in his owne pnyte
worde reson sentence poyntyd as it sholde be.

a.i.



Scipio parato rata
Gebetowd Ecce quod ego dabo

For as aurora departith the darkenes
Toward the risyng of firy phebus bryght
And the shadowes of the blake cloudy skyes
Are with drawyn through lucyfers lyght
So in englyssh the warkes who redyth a ryght
Of this noble man all other doth excell
In great wyldeom & vnderstanding supell

And by cause I am assytyd of this thyng
That this lytyl treatese whiche is tallyd
The parlyament of fowles was of his doyng
With oft inquisicyon I haue hpt achyuyd
And hpt publisside & made to be prentyd
Whiche wark not only but all other that he made
For nobyl quis sentence ben worthy to be radde

Wherfore eternē joye in euclasyng blys.
I besygh god his soule to graunt in glori
I bote the sterty palapse that he not myg
A sete in that heuynly consistori
Wher as I trust in joye his soule be myg
Pray syng the eternall joye without pere
Of his benyngge mycys he wyd to hym haue